



Jay Leno was still the host of The Tonight Show.



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Everyone was making Harlem Shake videos.



And **Urban Meyer** was coming off his first season at **The Ohio State** where he led the Buckeyes to an **undefeated season**.



Ok, so March 2013 wasn't a super long time ago, but Ohio has not only stopped the increase in its prison population, but is now heading in the right direction.

Ohio policymakers have made a concerted effort to safely reduce the prison population and those efforts are being rewarded. Policies such as **2011's Justice Reinvestment Act** and this year's **Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison** (T-CAP) which rehabilitate low-level offenders outside of prison have proven to be effective.

Ohio's prison system costs taxpayers \$1.8 billion every year. By reexamining criminal justice issues, policymakers are ensuring that those dollars are spent wisely. Good policy ensures that dangerous criminals are off the streets, while those who have made mistakes and can be safely rehabilitated in the community are placed on the path to become responsible citizens.

Ohio is building on its past victories by continuing on the path to a safer, more efficient, criminal justice system through the **Criminal Justice Recodification Committee**, probation and post-release control reform, and the upcoming work of the **Justice Reinvestment 2.0 Ad Hoc Committee**.

Daniel J. Dew is a legal fellow at The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center and an expert in criminal justice reform.

#

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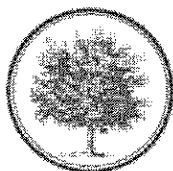
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 5:32 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Buckeye President Robert Alt in Forbes: American Workers Deserve Voting Rights

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In the article, Robert argues that we need to change our laws in order to empower public-sector workers with the voting rights they deserve.

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As Robert describes in the **Forbes** piece in more detail (see below for the full article or [click through to Forbes directly](#)), the time has come and the time is right now for Worker Voting Rights.

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Forbes

It's Time For Public Sector Workers To Be Given A Voice And Choice

Forbes

By Robert Alt

November 27, 2017

Early next year, the Supreme Court will hear *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*. Mark Janus is a child support specialist at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Service who objects to paying union fees, which are currently a condition of his employment. He argues that the compulsory fees force him to speak through his union in ways that violate his First Amendment rights.

If Mr. Janus prevails, he and other public-sector employees will be able to choose whether or not to pay union dues or fees without threat of being fired, which would be a tremendous victory for workers. However, even if Mr. Janus wins in court, public sector union members will still have no say regarding which union represents their bargaining unit.

Every morning, hardworking men and women in every state drink their coffee and diligently go to work on our behalf -- in our neighborhoods as public school teachers, home care workers, engineers, and in agencies protecting the environment. Unfortunately, while these civic-minded professionals go to work for us, the labor unions that they must join in order to teach our children or serve our communities do not always work for them.

Once a public-sector union is certified, it remains the workers' representative -- potentially forever. In Ohio, for example, the Columbus Education Association has

represented Columbus public school teachers since 1968 -- back when the Beatles were still together and before many of today's teachers were even born.

Heirloom unions inherited from the Nixon-era are depriving today's public workers and civil servants of any meaningful voice or choice in their workplace. Ninety-four percent of union workers have **never had the chance to vote for or against their unions** -- and still won't even if Janus succeeds in his case.

When a public-sector union fails to address employee complaints or misspends union dues, there is no ballot to cast for change. Instead, public employees remain stuck with the hand-me-down unions that workers who wore bell-bottoms chose for them.

There is a solution.

With worker voting rights, public employees would have regular elections to encourage their unions to be more responsive to their members' interests. Worker voting rights gives union workers an opportunity to be heard, to voice their concerns to their union leaders, to better understand how their union dues are spent, and to choose for themselves whether to keep the union they have, vote their union out, or vote in a better union. Worker voting rights would incentivize union leaders to cultivate broader support among the workforce they represent and to be accountable to their rank-and-file members. Not surprisingly, 82% of unionized Americans **favor holding periodic votes on their union representation**.

Once-and-for-all unions that rarely -- if ever -- face re-election have no worry of being fired by their members for poor performance or disregarding members' concerns. In states that require workers to pay "fair share" fees as a condition of employment, union leadership failure has next to no consequences, because whether the union negotiates better working conditions for its members or not, whether it spends union dues wisely or not, whether it meets the needs of its members or not, there is almost nothing public employees can do to replace or remove the poorly performing union. Even if these public employees are dissatisfied with their representation, they have to continue paying their union dues or fair share fees, or else their employment can be legally terminated.

Public-sector unions and their insulated union officials know and count on this questionable practice of denying their members voting rights, allowing unions that are not taking care of their members to remain firmly entrenched regardless of their members' satisfaction. But state lawmakers can guarantee worker voting rights for public employees by providing for regular elections by law.

Unions have played a significant role in America's workforce for well over a century. But the interests of the unions themselves should never trump the interests of the hardworking men and women these unions represent. Our civil servants and public-sector employees deserve to have their voices heard and their choices matter -- they deserve worker voting rights.

Robert Alt is President & CEO of The Buckeye Institute in Columbus, Ohio.

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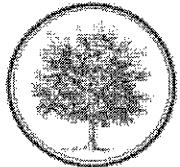
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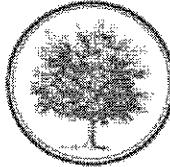
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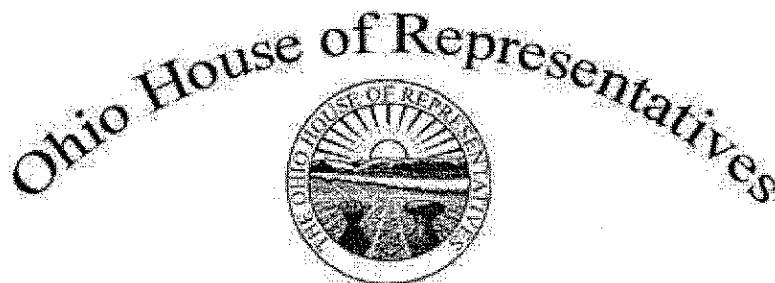
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From: Financial Institutions Housing & Urban Development Committee
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2017 12:39 PM
To: Hucke, Justin
Subject: FIHUD Committee Announcement - 12.5.2017
Attachments: notice.pdf



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE: Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development
CHAIR: Jonathan Dever
DATE: Tuesday, December 5, 2017
TIME: 9:00 AM
ROOM: Room 114

AGENDA

<u>BILL</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
H. B. No. 386	Rep. Henne, Rep. Kelly	Modify credit reporting agency fees for a credit report freeze	2nd Hearing Proponent
H. B. No. 390	Rep. Merrin	Clarify computation of timelines for forcible entry and detainer	2nd Hearing Proponent
H. B. No. 353	Rep. Reineke	Exempt loop credit and reward cards from Unclaimed Funds Law	4th Hearing Poss. Vote Prop/Opp/IP

The Chair respectfully requests **an electronic copy** of oral and/or written testimony and all amendments to

Financial Institutions Housing & Urban Development Committee@ohiohouse.gov at
least 24 hours prior to committee.

Ohio House of Representatives



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

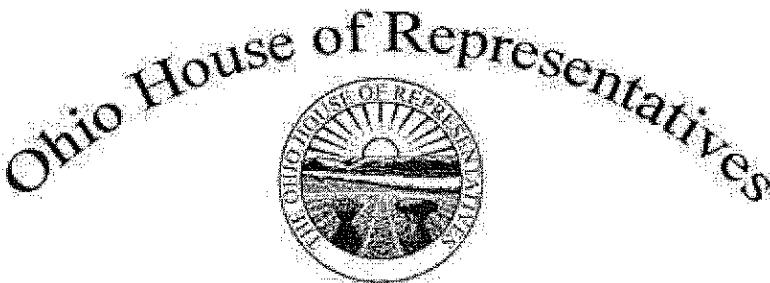
COMMITTEE: Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development
CHAIR: Jonathan Dever
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TIME: 9:00 AM
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The Chair respectfully requests **an electronic copy** of oral and/or written testimony and all amendments to FinancialInstitutionsHousing&UrbanDevelopmentCommittee@ohiohouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to committee.

From: Financial Institutions Housing & Urban Development Committee
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Hucke, Justin
Subject: FIHUD Committee Announcement - 12.12.2017
Attachments: Witness Information form.docx; notice.pdf



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE: Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development
CHAIR: Jonathan Dever
DATE: Tuesday, December 12, 2017
TIME: 9:00 AM
ROOM: Room 114

AGENDA

<u>BILL</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
H. B. No. 386	Rep. Henne, Rep. Kelly	Modify credit reporting agency fees for a credit report freeze	3rd Hearing Prop/Opp/IP
H. B. No. 390	Rep. Merrin	Clarify computation of timelines for forcible entry and detainer	3rd Hearing Opponent
H. B. No. 182	Rep. Seitz	Address debt adjusting	4th Hearing Poss. Vote Poss. Sub. Bill Prop/Opp/IP

H. B. No.	Rep. Reineke	Exempt loop credit and reward cards from Unclaimed Funds Law	5th Hearing Poss. Vote Poss. Sub. Bill Prop/Opp/IP
353			

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FinancialInstitutionsHousing&UrbanDevelopmentCommittee@ohiohouse.gov at
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WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Are you representing: Yourself _____ Organization _____

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Contact Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes _____
No _____

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): _____

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent _____ Opponent _____ Interested Party _____

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes _____
No _____

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Ohio House of Representatives



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE: Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development
CHAIR: Jonathan Dever
DATE: Tuesday, December 12, 2017
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AGENDA

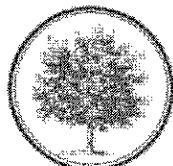
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 5:44 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Proposed Changes to Ohio's Cash Bail Policy are First Step to Fixing Broken System

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 7, 2017

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Proposed Changes to Ohio's Cash Bail Policy are First Step to Fixing Broken System

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute issued the following statement upon the introduction of House Bill 439, sponsored by State Representative Jonathan Dever (R-28), which would move Ohio away from an arbitrary cash bail system and give judges more flexibility and more information to detain dangerous defendants before trial.

"Under Ohio's current bail system, pretrial release is determined by the amount of money a person has access to rather than the actual threat the person poses to the community. And

the policies proposed today are the first step in reforming a broken system," said **Daniel J. Dew**, a legal fellow with The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center. "Ohio's cash bail system leads to the absurd results where a **drunken jaywalker** spends time in jail while a **child rapist** is released on bond only to murder the child set to testify against him."

In a forthcoming Buckeye Institute report, "*Money Bail: Making Ohio a More Dangerous Place to Live*", scheduled to be released next week, Dew looks at Ohio's failing cash bail system and the need to replace it with verified risk-assessment tools that provide a fairer, more efficient way to keep Ohio's communities safe and secure.

"In our report, we show that reliance on cash bail hurts the poor at the expense of taxpayers and gives dangerous defendants the opportunity to buy their way out of jail," Dew said. "Giving judges more information to make pretrial release decisions and giving them more tools to detain dangerous defendants will make Ohio communities safer."

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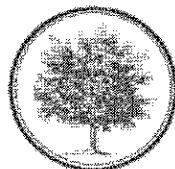
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 1:20 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: New Buckeye Report Finds Ohio's "Money Bail" System is Dangerous to Communities

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 11, 2017

New Buckeye Report Finds Ohio's "Money Bail" System is Dangerous to Communities

Columbus, OH -- Today, The Buckeye Institute released its latest policy report, "*Money Bail: Making Ohio a More Dangerous Place to Live*", which looks at the need for Ohio to replace its failing cash bail system with proven risk-assessment tools that provide a fairer, more efficient way to keep Ohio's communities safe and secure.

"The traditional money bail scheme is in dire need of reform, it is an inefficient, expensive, unfair means of protecting communities that has proven no guarantee to stopping repeat offenders," said **Daniel J. Dew**, a legal fellow with The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center**

and author of the report. "Under our current system, accused murderers, child rapists, and armed robbers are arrested and released into our communities because they have access to money, while citizens accused of jaywalking, violating dress-codes, or failing to pay traffic tickets sit in jail for days, weeks, or even months because they have little or no access to cash. We can and must do better."

Recommendations and Alternative Tools

In *Money Bail*, Dew recommends the use of evidence-based, risk-assessment tools to assess the risk an individual poses, such as their criminal history, the offense, and prior missed court dates. These tools give judges greater flexibility and resources to hold defendants accountable pending trial, and to deny release when there is clear evidence that the accused poses significant risks to the community. Dew also suggests a number of alternatives to cash bail, such as electronic monitoring, mandatory counseling, and routine check-ins that allow judges to hold defendants accountable.

Proven Success of Risk-Assessment Tools

The risk-assessment tools Dew recommends have proven successful in communities where they have been used. **Lucas County** has seen more defendants released before trial, more defendants appearing for trial, and less crime committed by those awaiting trial. Defendants arrested while on pretrial release dropped from 20 percent to 10 percent, and skipped court dates dropped by 12 percent, even as the number of people released without money bail doubled.

Where the Current System Failed

Dew also looks at 11 cases in Ohio where the current money bail system failed, including that of **Dragan Sekulic** of Stark County, who, after attempting to kill his ex-wife with his car, was released on \$100,000 bond. While he awaited trial, he shot and killed Zeljka.

On the other end of the spectrum is the case of **Markus Brown** who spent nine days in jail after being arrested for trespassing when his clothes violated the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority's dress code. After his arrest, Brown's bail was set at \$150, which his family could not afford. As a result, Brown sat in jail until his mother secured a car title loan nine days later.

"The Buckeye Institute's expose on money bail is a disturbing indictment of a justice system that often jails poor people for petty crimes, and allows those accused of sexual and violent crimes to buy their way to freedom," said Holly Harris of the **Justice Action Network**. "Fortunately, we now have legislation in HB 439 that would empower judges to make pre-trial release decisions based on the threat an accused person poses to society, and not on how much cash that person can pony up to the court. Given the disturbing case

studies on money bail unearthed by Buckeye, some of which led to heartbreakings deaths, it is difficult to imagine any legislator on either side of the aisle voting against this bill."

#

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The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

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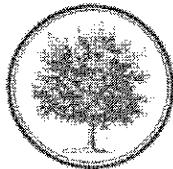
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 3:00 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Competition in Ohio's Electricity Market Will Save Ohioans Money and Improve Economy

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2017

The Buckeye Institute: Competition in Ohio's Electricity Market Will Save Ohioans Money and Improve Economy

Greg Lawson Offers Testimony to Ohio House Public Utilities Committee

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson submitted written testimony (see full text below) today to the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee on the need to increase competition in Ohio's electricity market and the important reform policies found in House Bill 247.

Lawson opened his testimony outlining the challenge Ohio faces, "Ohio's hybrid restructuring model is unworkable and policymakers must either go back to a fully

integrated, regulated structure or complete the electricity market reforms that the General Assembly initiated in 1999."

In making this case, Lawson illustrated the need for further reform to increase competition and lower prices if Ohio is going to continue to experience economic growth.

"Manufacturing is the single largest sector in the state in terms of gross domestic product and manufacturers typically count electricity as one of their largest expenditures." Lawson went on, "Technology companies are increasingly counting Ohio as a candidate for new sites, and a more competitive electricity market should help to attract and retain these investments."

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Lawson noted that reforms proposed in House Bill 247 would:

- Allow many Ohio households and businesses to save money on their electric bill and put it towards other uses;
- Permit the **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio** or the courts to issue refunds to customers for electric company charges that are deemed improper; and
- Would increase competition by ending non-transparent price schemes that can facilitate anti-competitive and unfair cross-subsidization between utilities and power plants they own through affiliated companies.

These types of reforms, Lawson says, "Would make Ohio a better place to do business and make it easier for low-income individuals to pay their electric bills."

#

**Interested Party Testimony
Submitted to the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee
on House Bill 247**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions
December 12, 2017**

Chairman Cupp, Vice Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak about the important electricity market reform policies found in House Bill 247. My name is Greg R. Lawson and I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus.

There is a serious problem at hand in our electric market that requires good policy to fix: Wholesale electricity prices have fallen dramatically since 2009, but the retail price that customers actually pay has only continued to increase.^[1] This problem is holding back the Ohio economy.

Historically, it is now clear that Ohio's hybrid restructuring model is unworkable and policymakers must either go back to a fully integrated, regulated structure or complete the electricity market reforms that the General Assembly initiated in 1999.

Manufacturing is the single largest sector in the state in terms of gross domestic product,^[2] and manufacturers typically count electricity as one of their largest expenditures. Making the electricity market more price competitive will help this important sector to compete on the global market and continue to employ Ohioans.

Low-cost electricity is also a key factor for data centers and other infrastructure of the information sector. Technology companies are increasingly counting Ohio as a candidate for new sites, and a more competitive electricity market should help to attract and retain these investments. Critically, the issue of cross-subsidization must be addressed. Electric utilities must not be able to obtain anticompetitive subsidies for affiliate generation. Allowing this to happen undermines the market.

Policies within HB 247 would appear to improve Ohio's present state of competitiveness.

First, it would eliminate electric security plans (ESP). Historically, Ohio's electric utilities have used these plans to inflate rates above the market price. Eliminating these plans would require electric utilities to only charge customers the market price for generation, not an ESP inflated price. This reform would therefore allow many Ohio households and businesses to save money on their electric bill and put it towards other uses.

Second, it would permit the **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio** or the courts to issue refunds to customers for charges that are deemed improper. This provision would force the ratemaking procedure to be more transparent and fairer on the front side by ensuring that customers can be fully made whole.

Third, it would restrict monopoly utilities from owning power plants, even through an affiliate company. While eliminating ESPs alone may be able to limit potential cross-subsidization from these relationships, a requirement that electric utilities fully divest their

integrated, regulated structure or complete the electricity market reforms that the General Assembly initiated in 1999."

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generation assets would guarantee that utility affiliated generation cannot gain an unfair competitive advantage. Further, in light of the millions of dollars of transition revenues that utilities have already collected over the years, such separation is less draconian today than it was in the early days of restructuring.

In all likelihood, requiring owners of generation to be fully independent of any regulated utility would increase the competitiveness of the sector and lead to a more favorable outcome for Ohioans over the long run.^[3]

In conclusion, Ohio is in desperate need of greater competitiveness, transparency, and fairness in its electricity market. Reforms such as, or similar to, those in HB 247 would make Ohio a better place to do business and make it easier for low-income individuals to pay their electric bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

[1] Russ Keller, "Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement: H.B. 247 of the 132nd General Assembly, As Introduced," Ohio Legislative Service Commission, November 28, 2017.

[2] *Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes & the Economy*, The Buckeye Institute and Tax Foundation, June 7, 2017.

[3] Joe Nichols and Devin Hartman, *Don't Short Circuit the Ohio Electricity Market*, The Buckeye Institute and RStreet Institute, October 16, 2017.

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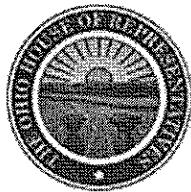
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Hinman, Will
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 12:41 PM
To: Committee_PublicUtilities_List_ALL; Committee_PublicUtilities_List_DEM; Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP
Subject: Additional written testimony from yesterday's House Public Utilities Committee (12-12-17)
Attachments: buckeyeinstitute.IP.hb247.written.pdf

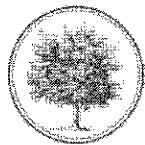
Members of the House Public Utilities Committee,

Please see the attached document, it is written interested party testimony on HB 247 from Greg Lawson with Buckeye Institute. It was unintentionally omitted from yesterday's hearing, but will be added to the record to reflect that it was submitted to our office prior to the start of committee yesterday. Let me know if there are questions.



Will Hinman
Legislative Aide to State Representative Bob Cupp
Ohio House of Representatives
will.hinman@ohiohouse.gov
(614) 466-9624
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215





THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Interested Party Testimony Before the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee on House Bill 247

December 12, 2017

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions**

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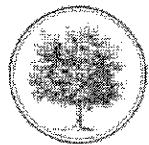
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² The Buckeye Institute and Tax Foundation, "Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes & the Economy," June 7, 2017, <https://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/library/doclib/2017-06-07-Ohio-Illustrated-A-Visual-Guide-to-Taxes-And-the-Economy.pdf>.



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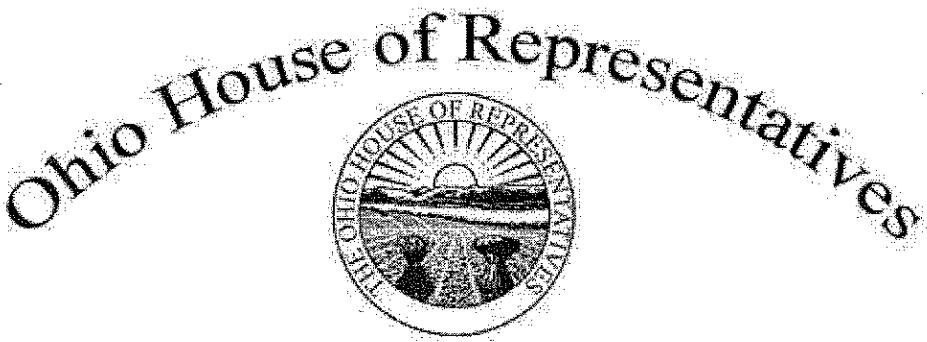
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In conclusion, Ohio is in desperate need of greater competitiveness, transparency, and fairness in its electricity market. Reforms such as, or similar to, those in HB 247 would make Ohio a better place to do business and make it easier for low-income individuals to pay their electric bills. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

³ Joe Nichols and Devin Hartman, "Don't Short Circuit the Ohio Electricity Market," The Buckeye Institute and R Street Institute, <https://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/library/doclib/2017-10-16-Don-t-Short-Circuit-the-Ohio-Electricity-Market-By-Joe-Nichols-and-Devin-Hartman.pdf>.

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe
Subject: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

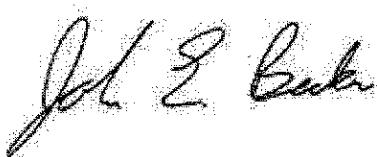
1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.

4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.
5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

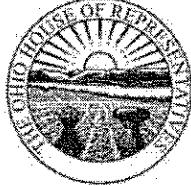
If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. The deadline to co-sponsor is Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.



John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

Ohio House of Representatives



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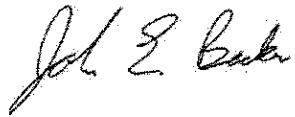
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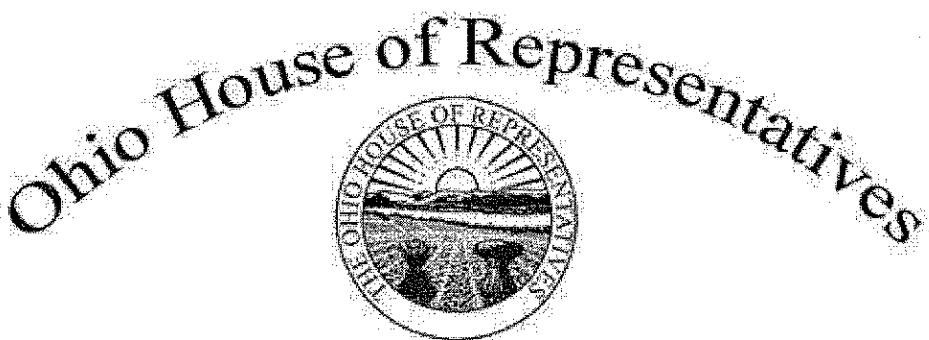
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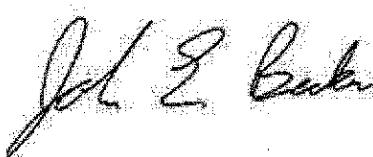
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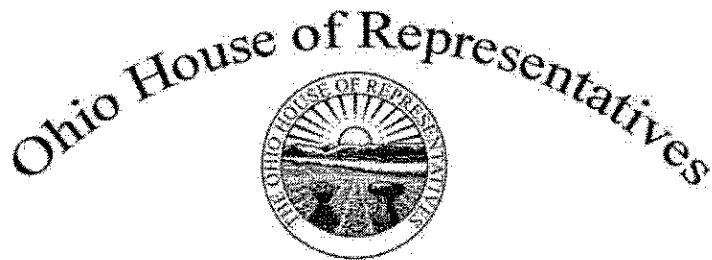
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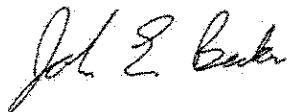
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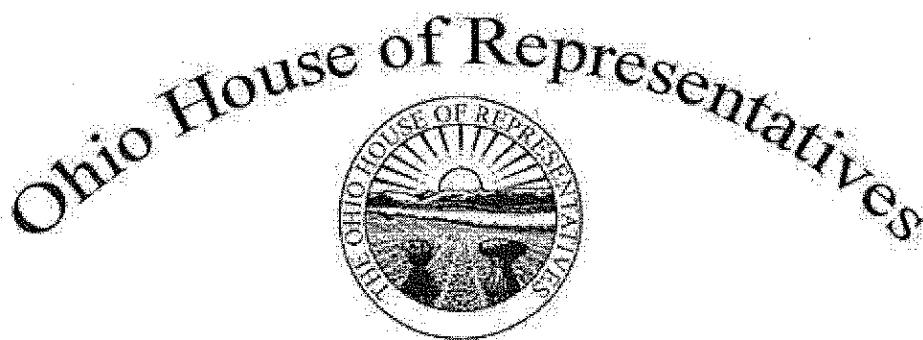
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Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Becker".

John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe
Subject: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

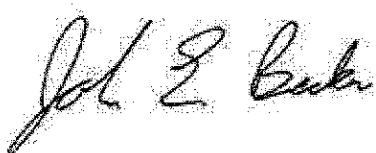
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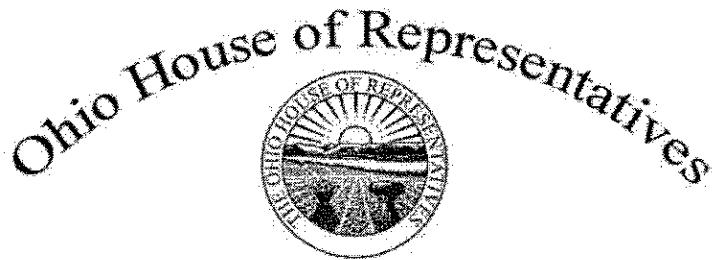
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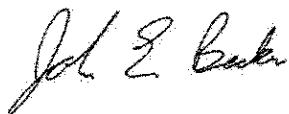
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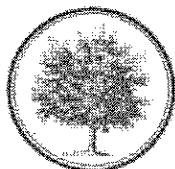
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John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 7:04 AM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: New Buckeye Report Finds Occupational Licensing Hits Older and Lower-Income Workers Hardest

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 18, 2017

New Buckeye Report Finds Occupational Licensing Hits Older and Lower-Income Workers Hardest

Columbus, OH -- Today, The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center released its latest policy report, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*. The report found that the burden of Ohio's occupational licensing requirements has a greater impact on middle-aged and low-income workers, and those without a college degree. In essence, occupational licensing erects barriers to employment to those most in need of good-paying jobs.

"This research offers more evidence of the negative impact of occupational licensing. We have known for years that licensing requirements reduce job creation in Ohio and make it

harder for people to get jobs," said Greg R. Lawson, a research fellow at The Buckeye Institute and one of the authors of the report. "This study shows that licensing requirements also impose a disproportionate burden on job seekers -- placing a particularly onerous burden on low-income, minority, and non-college educated Ohioans."

Using a macroeconomic dynamic scoring model -- developed by economists at Buckeye's **Economic Research Center** -- and data collected by the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**, the report's authors discovered that Ohio's licensing requirements have prevented more than 7,000 people between the ages of 25-45 from pursuing licensed occupations, and has discouraged people from migrating to Ohio to enter the job market. The authors also discovered that high licensing costs keep workers from good-paying professions, and suggests that without such costs more workers would find employment.

Still Forbidden to Succeed was authored by Dr. Orphe Pierre Divounguy, former economist with The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center; Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute; and Bryce Hill, a former economic research assistant with the Economic Research Center. This new study builds on Buckeye's previous research on occupational licensing, ***Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back.***

#

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



= A

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](#)

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn; Dittoe, Michael
Subject: FW: ALERT: Becker Right-to-Work (Sending @ 1)

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:05 PM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>
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OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
December 18, 2017

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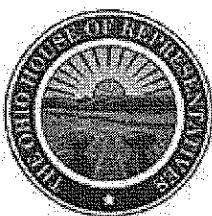
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From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 6:30 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Monday, December 18, 2017

Monday, December 18, 2017

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

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From: Rep30
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 4:18 PM
To: Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP
Subject: RE: Enclosed PowerPoint Presentation

I respond briefly to my colleague's December 15 memo. Representative Romanchuk can be assured "getting to real business in the new year" does not mean that we are going to pass an unnecessary tax on our constituents, if I have anything to say about it. Nothing in the bills pending before our committee entails any tax whatsoever.

I disagree with his assertion that the PowerPoint presentations that I shared with you from my ALEC winter meeting are inapplicable to Ohio or its electric market. The need for reliable and resilient fuel generation sources is as big an issue here as it is in Texas or anywhere else. Coal and nuclear are reliable and resilient. Abandoning the field solely to volatile market prices for gas (and renewables, which are neither reliable nor resilient) would cause the same problems for Ohio that the experts see emerging in Texas' wholly deregulated generation market. HB 247 would wholly deregulate electric generation markets in Ohio, without any effective method of replacing what some claim to be "an outdated rate mechanism", the electric security plan option that is currently available. Essentially, the state of Ohio would abdicate any ability to ensure a reliable, resilient, and diverse fuel supply and leave that to the federal authorities.

Every one of the three items addressed by HB 247 are important issues to address. "Getting down to real business" means determining whether these issues are being correctly addressed by the bill; collaboratively deciding how better to address them; and respecting the order established by leadership in which energy issues are to be addressed in this session.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Bill

From: Rep02
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 1:29 PM
To: Rep30 <Rep30@ohiohouse.gov>; Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP <DL_Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP@ohiohouse.gov>; Willamowski, Sheila <Sheila.Willamowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Enclosed PowerPoint Presentation

Chairman Cupp, GOP Committee Members, Ryan and Sheila,

The presentations regarding the Texas system do not apply to Ohio and our electric market.

HB 247 addresses three items unique to Ohio:

- It eliminates an outdated rate mechanism which is now being used against Ohioans
- It requires refunds to Ohioans if an electric rate has been ruled unlawful
- It prohibits utilities that are in the distribution business from owning electric generation (which mirrors the deregulation legislation passed in 1999-SB3)

If “getting down to real business in the new year” means that we are going to pass an unnecessary tax on our constituents...NO THANKS.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Mark

From: Rep30

Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 4:40 PM

To: Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP

<DL_Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP@ohiohouse.gov>; Willamowski, Sheila

<Sheila.Willamowski@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Enclosed PowerPoint Presentation

Republican Members of Public Utilities Committee, Lehman, Sheila

RE: Enclosed PowerPoint presentation

As we continue to look at the complex electricity issues contained in bills pending before our committee, I commend to your attention the enclosed PowerPoint presentation which, among other things, emphasizes the need for resiliency and reliability in preserving baseload electricity plants and also points out that the Texas wholly deregulated generation market is not all that it is cracked up to be—a cautionary tale lest we attempt to replicate that model, as HB 247 would have us do. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. I hope we can get down to real business in the new year.

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:39 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 12/20/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS

12/20/2017

The Columbus Dispatch
Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper.

REPORT SUGGESTS STATE AGENCY ALREADY HAS VIOLATED NEW CONTRACTING POLICY

After The Dispatch revealed the Ohio Department of Administrative Services awarded \$15 million in unbid contracts to favored information-technology consultants, the agency promised to clean up its act.

NEW WHALEY AD PRAISES WORK, PROMISES JOBS

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley has released a new internet ad touting the dignity of work as she seeks the Democratic nomination for governor.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

LEHNER'S BILL AIMS TO CHANGE OHIO TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM

The Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) could see significant changes if a bill recently introduced by State Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) becomes law.

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THE ENQUIRER

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:39 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 12/20/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS

12/20/2017



REPORT SUGGESTS STATE AGENCY ALREADY HAS VIOLATED NEW CONTRACTING POLICY

After The Dispatch revealed the Ohio Department of Administrative Services awarded \$15 million in unbid contracts to favored information-technology consultants, the agency promised to clean up its act.

NEW WHALEY AD PRAISES WORK, PROMISES JOBS

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley has released a new internet ad touting the dignity of work as she seeks the Democratic nomination for governor.



LEHNER'S BILL AIMS TO CHANGE OHIO TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM

The Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) could see significant changes if a bill recently introduced by State Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) becomes law.

STATE SENATOR TO RUN FOR MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSION

State Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) today declared his candidacy for a seat on the Miami County Commission.



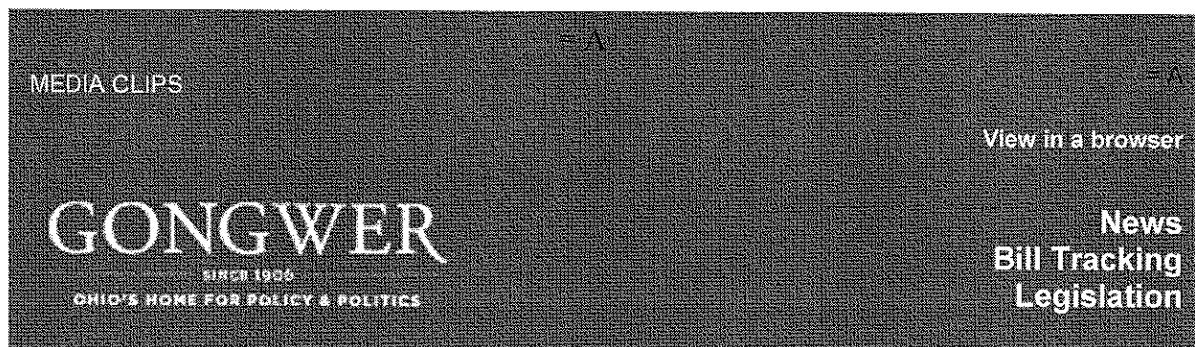
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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:42 AM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, December 20

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NEWS

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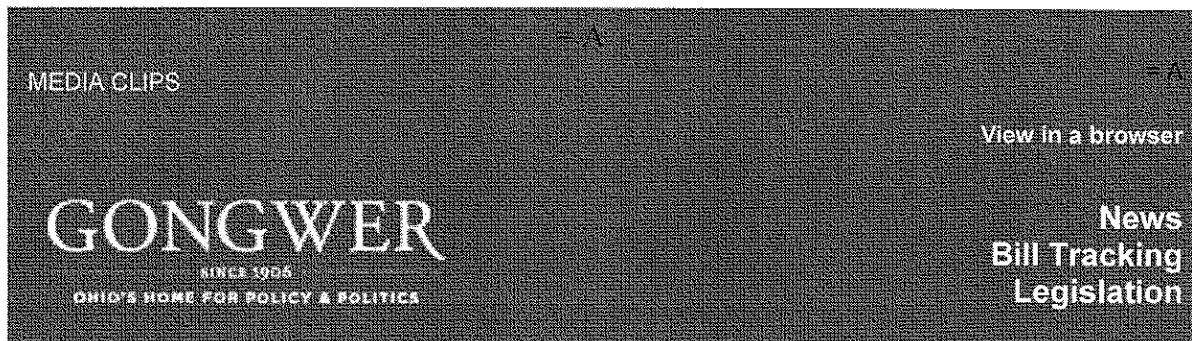
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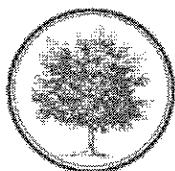
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 11:22 AM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute Releases Economic Freedom of North America 2017

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 20, 2017

The Buckeye Institute Releases Economic Freedom of North America 2017

Ohio Ranks 35th Among the 50 States in Economic Freedom

Columbus, OH -- Ohio ranks 35th out of all 50 states in this year's *Economic Freedom of North America* report, released today by **The Buckeye Institute** in partnership with Canada's **Fraser Institute**. The report ranks every state and province in North America based on economic freedom as measured by government spending, taxation, and labor market restrictions.

"The news is mixed for Ohio. The state has moved up a few spots this year, mostly due to Governor John Kasich's tax reform efforts in 2015. Yet, overall Ohio still languishes in the bottom third of states and trails most of its neighbors," wrote **Rea S. Hederman Jr.**,

executive director of The Buckeye Institute's **Economic Research Center** and vice president of policy, in the report's forward. "Given this ranking, it is not surprising that the state struggles to retain its workers and is not a destination for entrepreneurs seeking a new place to start a business."

Using data from 2015, the most recent year available, Ohio ranks 35th among the 50 states in economic freedom with a score of 6.7. That is up three places from 2016 when Ohio was ranked 38th and five places from 2015 when the state was ranked 40th. Included in the report is Buckeye's **Ohio Economic Freedom Fact Sheet**, which summarizes where Ohio ranks in various economic freedom policies and how it compares to neighboring states.

Ohio's Ranking in Key Areas

Government Spending - 41st

- Consumption spending as a percent of personal income - 22nd
- Transfers and subsidies as a percent of personal income - 23rd
- Insurance and retirement payments as a percent of personal income - 47th

Taxes - 26th

- Income and payroll tax revenue as a percent of personal income - 27th
- Top income tax threshold \$208,500
- Property tax and other tax revenue as a percent of personal income - 20th
- Sales tax revenue as a percent of personal income - 34th

Labor Market Freedom - 30th

- Minimum wage income as a percent of per capita personal income - 36th
- Government employees as a percent of total employees - 12th
- Union density as a percent of total employees - 35th

The Fraser Institute has measured economic freedom in every state and province in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for 13 years, creating a comprehensive assessment of trends in economic freedom. The Buckeye Institute and its Economic Research Center co-published the report for the third year in a row.

The Fraser Institute and The Buckeye Institute are independent think tanks that research and advocate for free-market economic policies. The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center specializes in data analysis of state-level economic policies.

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Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 2:43 PM
To: Michalowski, Joe
CC: Basie, Margaret
Subject: Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Becker & Riedel Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf
Importance: High

Representative Craig S. Riedel
has signed on to all six of these constitutional amendments as a joint sponsor with Rep. Becker.

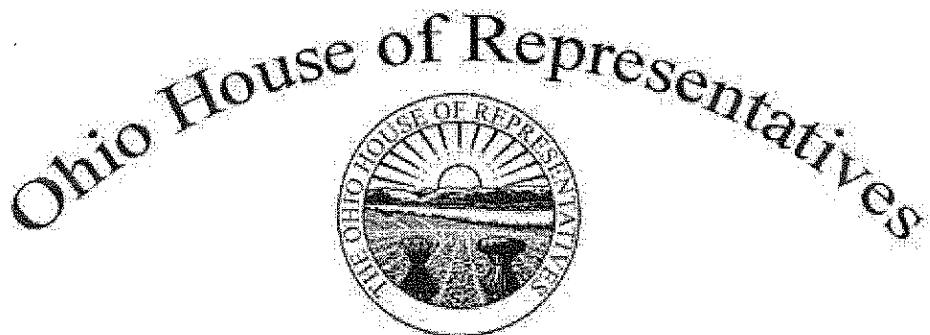
Each of the six amendments would appear on Ohio's general election ballot on November 3, 2020.

The current co-sponsors of all six are: Rep. Thompson, Rep. Brinkman, Rep. Dean, Rep. Keller, Rep. Roegner, and Rep. Zeltwanger. Rep. Lang is a co-sponsor on the following constitutional amendments: private-sector right-to-work (amendment #1); public-sector prevailing wage (amendment #3); and public-

sector project labor agreements (amendment #5).

Rep. Vitale is a co-sponsor on public-sector right-to-work (amendment #2).

Revised deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY at 5:00 PM. Please note which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor.



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel
Ohio's 82nd House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017
RE: REVISED: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

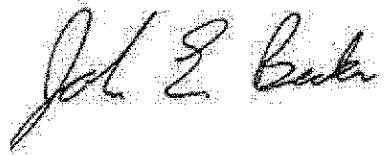
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5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio’s neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation’s future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio’s future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY- Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

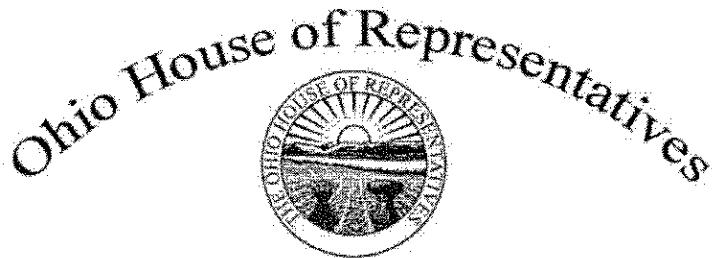
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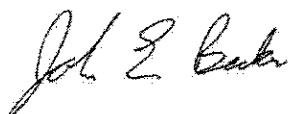
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Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District

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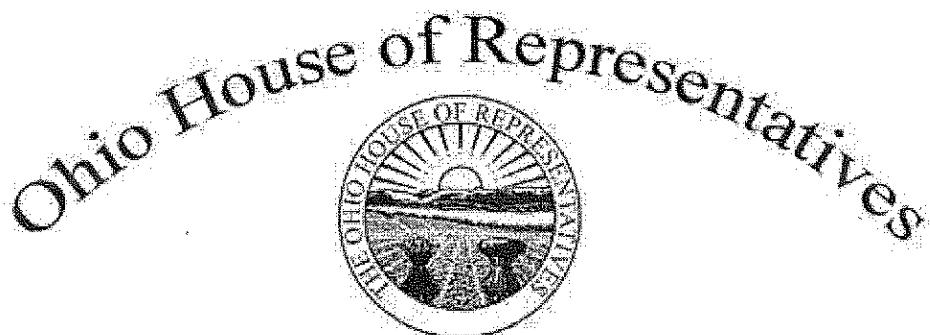
Each of the six amendments would appear on Ohio's general election ballot on November 3, 2020.

The current co-sponsors of all six are: Rep. Thompson, Rep. Brinkman, Rep. Dean, Rep. Keller, Rep. Roegner, and Rep. Zeltwanger. Rep. Lang is a co-sponsor on the following constitutional amendments: private-sector right-to-work (amendment #1); public-sector prevailing wage (amendment #3); and public-

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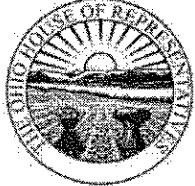
JL Becker

C S. Riedel

John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

Craig S. Riedel
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82nd House District

Ohio House of Representatives



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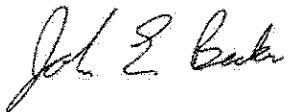
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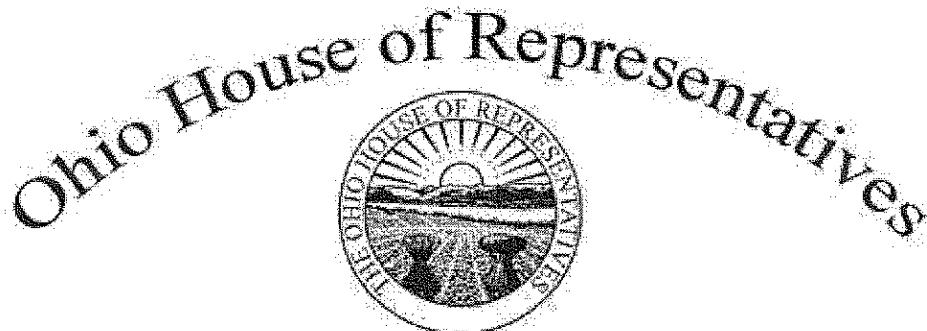
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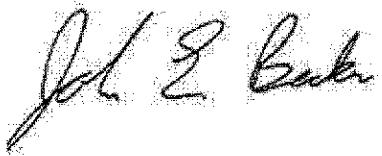
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If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY- Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.



John Becker
State Representative
65th House District



Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel
Ohio's 82nd House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017
RE: REVISED Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

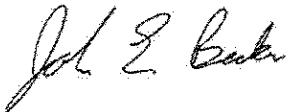
The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

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John Becker
State Representative
65th House District



Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District

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Subject: House & Senate Floor Reports

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HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

HJR 7

UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of public sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember public sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 8**UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of private sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember private sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 9**PREVAILING WAGE (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 43 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement to pay the contractor's workers the prevailing rate of wages for work performed on the public improvement.

HJR 10**PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 2 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts.

HJR 11**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative.

HJR 12**UNION DUES (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit dues and other fees payable to an employee organization

from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and to prohibit those dues and fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the public employee.

HB 454

CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.)

To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner.

= A

SENATE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

SB 246

= A STUDENT REMOVAL (Lehner, P., Manning, G.)

To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation.

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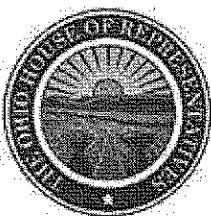
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From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:58 PM
To: Lenzo, Mike; Kasych, Shawn
Subject: FW: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)

FYI

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Lundregan, Scott <Scott.Lundregan@ohiohouse.gov>; Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
December 21, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

State Representatives John Becker and Craig S. Riedel announce Introduction of Six Right-to-Work Ohio Constitutional Amendments

COLUMBUS—State Representatives John Becker (R-Union Township) and Craig S. Riedel (R-Defiance) today announced that nine additional Members have signed onto one or more of six Right-to-Work related Ohio constitutional amendments.

- HJR 8: Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Furthermore, this amendment will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”

- HJR 7: Public-sector Right-to-Work – This legislation is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- HJR 9: Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
- HJR 12: Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This amendment prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.
- HJR 10: Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This legislation is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from minimizing competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
- HJR 11: Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This amendment will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

With 11 State Representatives sponsoring one or more of them, Becker and Riedel are asking Ohio's General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. "Now that 28 states- and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states- have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment," said Becker. "Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future," Becker continued. "I believe in individual freedom, and the right of a worker to be able to choose whether or not they want to belong to a union," Riedel added. "By bringing these Right-to-Work amendments forward as ballot issues, we are allowing the citizens of Ohio to have the final say."

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 6:06 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Ohio Report, Thursday, December 21, 2017
Attachments: Dec21House.htm; Dec21Senate.htm; 171221dayplan.htm; Dec21.htm

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OHIO REPORT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Speaker Tasks Universities With Engaging High Schoolers Impacted By Opiate Epidemic

Right-To-Work, Prevailing Wage Proposals Unveiled In House

Children Services Agencies See Growing Burden From Drug Crisis; Overdose Deaths Tallied

House Republican Announces Plan To Crack Down Drug Dealers

'Significant Update' On Belmont County Ethane Cracker Slated For 2018

Federal Judge Dismisses Property Owners' Lawsuit Against Nexus Pipeline

Groups Highlight Economic Impacts Of 'Dreamers' In Push To Restore DACA

High Court Green Lights Tax Board To Take Up \$500K NASCAR Appeal

Poll Finds Democrats With Big Lead In Generic Congressional Ballots; Bacon Touts Fundraising; Scott Officially Enters District 12 Race...

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House Activity for Thursday, December 21, 2017

INTRODUCED

HJR 7 ■ **UNION MEMBERSHIP** ([Becker, J.](#), [Riedel, C.](#)) Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of public sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember public sector employees in employment-related matters.
[Gongwer Coverage](#)

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[Gongwer Coverage](#)

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[Gongwer Coverage](#)

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[Gongwer Coverage](#)

HJR 11 ■ **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING** ([Becker, J.](#), [Riedel, C.](#)) Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative.
[Gongwer Coverage](#)

HJR 12

UNION DUES (Becker, J., Riedel, C.) Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit dues and other fees payable to an employee organization from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and to prohibit those dues and fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the public employee.

Gongwer Coverage

HB 454

CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. Am. 517.073

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Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Senate Activity for Thursday, December 21, 2017

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SB 246 ■ **STUDENT REMOVAL (Lehner, P., Manning, G.)** To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. Am. 3302.03, 3313.534, 3313.66, 3313.661, 3313.668, and 3319.46 and to enact section 3319.237

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Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
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Daily Activity Planner for Friday, December 22

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

No events scheduled.

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Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
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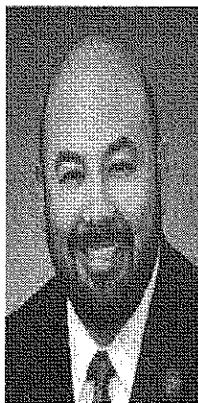
Volume #86, Report #245 – Thursday, December 21, 2017

Speaker Tasks Universities With Engaging High Schoolers Impacted By Opiate Epidemic

University presidents are coming together to devise strategies for reaching out to youth impacted by the opiate epidemic.

They're doing so at the request of Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), who said he was recently inspired by a group of Waverly City Schools students impacted by addiction.

Many students in that district live with someone other than their parents and lack access to role models who can highlight life skills and opportunities to grow, he said in a recent column.



Speaker Rosenberger

Speaker Rosenberger said he believes universities can serve as the sources of those mentors.

"It's our communities who are going to help us in the drug epidemic, so how can we get college students to be those big brothers and sisters and give them some credit maybe for service-oriented things," he told reporters last week.

Another facet of his charge to universities is to consider how at-risk high school students can volunteer to earn credits toward college tuition, he said.

"Maybe they earn some credit or some dollars toward college credit so that they can have some ability to go out and do something," Speaker Rosenberger said.

Because reaching out to underserved populations dealing with the opiate crisis will be a priority for the legislature in 2018, he said he's eyeing legislation that would implement such mentorship and volunteer programs statewide. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 15, 2017)

University presidents began brainstorming immediately after meeting with the speaker earlier this month and will come back together in January to decide which ideas should be proposed, said Bruce Johnson, president of the Inter-University Council of Ohio.

Institutions have an essential role in the state's ongoing fight against opioids, he said, pointing to research that shows Ohioans with college degrees are 14 times less likely to die of overdoses than those who have only high school diplomas.

"One of the fundamental ways to attack opiate abuse in the state is to have a higher percentage of people in the state obtain a higher education," Mr. Johnson said.

"Students, particularly in hard-to-reach areas of the state, having mentors would help them manage their way through the difficulties and find their way to a public university," he added.

In areas of the state where the opiate epidemic has hit hardest, encouraging students to want to go to college is key because they often don't see higher education as a potential pathway, Mr. Johnson said.

"I think the thing that's really going to give students hope is a pathway which involves access to higher education," he said.

For that reason, it's possible the forthcoming plan will propose financial assistance for high school students who participate in a mentorship program and can show perseverance, Mr. Johnson said.

"Earning your way toward a college scholarship would be a great use of the state's resources," he said.

Any legislative proposals that come from the president's recommendations would be in addition to what universities are already doing on the opiate front, he said. Each university has undertaken initiatives to address the issue.

At Ohio University, low-income patients with substance abuse issues can receive free or low-cost treatment and drug dependent mothers-to-be are eligible for access to medication-assisted treatment programs, obstetrical care, social service benefits and other services. Similar services are provided at other university hospitals throughout the state.

Meanwhile, University of Akron is looking to help students who may be dealing with addiction by working with community agencies to develop supports and programming.

In the research realm, the University of Cincinnati recently received a \$1.5 million Third Frontier grant aimed at the epidemic. That total is in addition to \$32 million in research funding that's been awarded to the university to be put toward the cause.

Other universities are offering up their own dollars in an effort to find innovative solutions to the state's drug problem. The new Opioid Innovation Fund at Ohio State University will provide \$1 million in grants to public-private partnerships that develop programs or technologies to reduce the burden of the opiate crisis.

Right-To-Work, Prevailing Wage Proposals Unveiled In House

A slate of ballot proposals targeting labor laws was introduced Thursday in the House, drawing immediate pushback from one of the state's largest union groups.

The six joint resolutions from Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) and Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) would ban mandatory union dues for both public and private employees, limit prevailing wage and make other changes guaranteed to spark protests among Ohio's unions.

If passed by lawmakers, the issues would be placed on the 2020 ballot for voters to weigh in, according to Rep. Becker. He said he chose the resolution route after his prior legislative efforts went nowhere.

"It has to do with making Ohio more competitive," Rep. Becker said in an interview. "Currently, Ohio is being left behind. Four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states are right to work. With 28 (right-to-work) states in the union, the trend is clearly in that direction."

Two of the resolutions (HJR 7 & HJR 8) would ban any laws, rules or agreements requiring public and private sector employees to join or pay union dues. They would also prohibit unions from representing non-members in employment-related matters.

Other resolutions would:

- Prevent a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement project to pay workers the prevailing rate of wages (HJR 9).
- Forbid certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts (HJR 10).
- Subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative (HJR 11).
- Prohibit dues and other fees from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and prohibit those fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the employee (HJR 12).

Along with Messrs. Becker and Riedel, nine other representatives have signed on as cosponsors of one or more of the resolutions.

Rep. Becker said Republican leaders, House Speaker candidates and Republican gubernatorial candidates have all told him the same thing: If Ohio is to become a right-to-work state, it needs to be a decision driven by voters.

"They've all got this one consistent theme: the voters have to decide," Rep. Becker said. "I'm taking them at their word and saying fine, let's move forward with that. That's what these resolutions would do. They go on the ballot for people to decide."

Brad Miller, a spokesman for House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said the speaker will review the proposals.

"The issue of right-to-work has been brought forward numerous times in recent years, and it always generates an important and interesting discussion amongst the caucus," Mr. Miller said. "Since Rep. Becker's resolution was introduced just today, Speaker Rosenberger will review the legislation and will seek input from caucus members before any potential future actions are determined."

Tim Burga, president of the Ohio AFL-CIO, said that neither employers nor employees in Ohio are seeking these changes.

"These proposals are a frontal assault on workers," Mr. Burga said. "It does three things: It takes away rights at work, it drives down wages, and it strips workers of their political beliefs. It's really policies that attack the foundation of what's been a catalyst to create Ohio's working class."

Ohio House Democrats will likewise fight the proposals should they gain traction, with Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) calling them "dangerous, divisive bills."

"Taxpayers expect us to work together to increase opportunity and create jobs with wages and benefits that can sustain a family," Rep. Strahorn said. "These anti-worker, anti-family restrictions will do the exact opposite."

Opponents point to the public's rejection of 2011's Senate Bill 5 - in which voters voted 62-38% to repeal a law that limited collective bargaining for public employees - as evidence that Ohioans don't support such a move. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 8, 2011)

For that reason, Gov. John Kasich, commenting on prior right-to-work legislation from Rep. Becker and others, has said right-to-work is "not on my agenda."

But Rep. Becker contends that SB5 (129th General Assembly) wasn't truly a right-to-work bill but more focused on strikes, benefits and union negotiations. In his view, voters haven't weighed in on the issue since 1958 when voters by a 63-36% margin rejected a right-to-work amendment.

Rep. Becker said he approached Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford) about supporting the resolutions but neither has signed on at this point as a cosponsor. Both men are vying to succeed Rep. Rosenberger as speaker.

But the sponsor said he believes the measures would have support in the caucus.

"In conversations with plenty of other colleagues beyond those nine (cosponsors) it's a whole lot of, 'We don't want to go on record with it' or 'we want to see which direction it goes,'" Rep. Becker said. "They just don't want to be in front of it right out of the gate. There's a lot of support, it's just not necessarily public."

Mr. Burga, though, said the proposals are a "political assault authored by out-of-state interests."

"It's never a good time to introduce bad policy but again this is an extreme measure without a constituency," Mr. Burga said. "I would say Ohioans deserve better than this. Just like on Senate Bill 5, we will fight these proposals and encourage legislators to work together to find common ground to create jobs and raise wages."

Children Services Agencies See Growing Burden From Drug Crisis; Overdose Deaths Tallied

The opiate epidemic continues to put a strain on Ohio's foster care system, with a thousand more kids expected to spend the holidays in foster care this year compared to 2016, a report released Thursday found.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio said the drug problem is driving a dramatic surge in demand for foster care, with the number of children in agency custody rising from 12,654 in July 2013 to 15,145 last July.

At this rate, the state would reach 20,000 kids in care by 2020, with the cost of placing them in foster homes and residential facilities rising to more than \$500 million per year.

"We are sounding the alarm now - we need help," PCSAO Executive Director Angela Sausser said in a statement. "We need substantially more state resources before we lose the ability to provide essential services to vulnerable children."

The data indicate increasing rates of growth in the number of children in care, with the total rising from 15,145 on July 1 to more than 15,500 on Oct. 1.

The association pointed to some help it received from the legislature in the budget bill (HB 49), an additional \$15 million. Yet foster care placement costs have increased by about \$45 million since last year, not counting staffing or other agency services, the group said.

"Ohio needs a long-term solution to this crisis - and leadership to get us there before agency budgets collapse and our workforce jumps ship," Ms. Sausser said. "We already have a lack of available foster homes in Ohio. With the projected increases, we will have children sleeping in county agency lobbies with no available foster family to take them in."

Other state efforts include work by Attorney General Mike DeWine's office including a 14-county pilot project designed to help families affected by parental opioid abuse. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 24, 2017) Another effort by the AG's office provides more funding for children services agencies to boost the number of foster families available. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 20, 2017)

Ms. Sausser pointed to work in California, where that state is realigning services along a continuum of care.

The increase in placements, she said, doesn't include the number of children placed with relatives.

"Placing abused and neglected children with kin leads to better long-term outcomes and is far less costly to government, but it means that grandparents on fixed incomes and aunts with kids of their own must find a way to pay for food, clothes, child care and other expenses," she said. "The legislature stepped up again and provided \$15 million a year in federal funds to create child care assistance for kinship families. However, that program has been delayed."

Overdose Totals: In a related development, new data released by the federal government show Ohio with the second-highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the country at 39.1 per 100,000 in 2016.

The numbers released by the National Center for Health Statistics showed Ohio with 4,329 overdose deaths last year, up from the 4,050 reported by the Department of Health in August. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 30, 2017)

Ohio's overdose total was exceeded only by those of Pennsylvania, California and Florida.

In terms of the death rate, Ohio's 39.1 per 100,000 ranked behind only West Virginia, which had a rate of 52. New Hampshire was at 39.0, the District of Columbia at 38.8 and Pennsylvania at 37.9.

National totals showed a continued increase in deaths from heroin and other opioids, coupled with a dramatic surge in the number of deaths from synthetic opioids other than methadone. Those deaths totaled 3,105, or 1 per 100,000, in 2013, but rose to more than 19,000, or a rate of 6.2, in 2016.

House Republican Announces Plan To Crack Down Drug Dealers

Drug dealers in Ohio could face much stiffer penalties under a proposal unveiled Thursday.

Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) announced plans to introduce legislation that would boost trafficking charges for all Schedule I and Schedule II substances, with the exception of marijuana, to a minimum third-degree felony that carries a mandatory prison term.



Scott Wiggam

"No longer will drug dealers be able to operate in this state with little fear for the law," Rep. Wiggam said during a Statehouse news conference.

While the lawmaker praised the state's effort to combat the drug epidemic, including \$180 million in the two-year budget (HB 49), he said deterrence and accountability are missing, and hopes his bill will provide those two components to the fight.

Over the past four years, he said, overdose deaths have skyrocketed by 212%, while traffickers going to prison fell by 4% over that same time period.

"Ohio's law is too weak to deter drug traffickers from continuing to flood our streets with their products," he said. "Law enforcement officers have grown weary and demoralized from arresting the same criminals for drug trafficking only to see them released into our society with little more than a slap on the wrist."

Wayne County Prosecutor Dan Lutz voiced that frustration. He said a trafficker in his county was recently arrested after knowingly selling heroin mixed with fentanyl that led to a user's overdose death. Among the charges his office brought was involuntary manslaughter, which was later amended to reckless homicide.

Nonetheless, Mr. Lutz said the judge in the case was not pleased with the man being charged for the death of the user and told defense counsel to seek a bench trial, which they did. The individual was eventually found guilty of a single drug trafficking charge.

"Amazingly, he sentenced him to only probation," Mr. Lutz said, adding the man went right back to selling heroin.

The bill will not differentiate between those who are trafficking large amounts of drugs for profit and those who are selling small amounts to support a habit. Mr. Lutz said both are killing people by selling deadly drugs.

"We want to deter that," he said. "We want to make it too costly to do that."

Despite the bill treating addicts and large-scale traffickers the same, Rep. Wiggam said it does not take away from changes in law in recent years that have sought to treat those two groups of individuals differently in the criminal justice system.

"If you are an addict and you are selling, you are still engaged in selling," he said.

As for the impact on the state's prison population, Rep. Wiggam said he is unsure exactly how his legislation will impact the numbers. He added that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has yet to take a position on the bill.

But Mr. Lutz said when discussing the state's prison population, the cost-benefit analysis does not take into account the cost savings from not having people on the streets "wreaking havoc."

"Some people need to be locked up in prisons, and these are those people," he said.

Asked about the philosophy of some in the law enforcement community, including Attorney General Mike DeWine, who has repeatedly said the state cannot "arrest its way out" of the drug problem, Mr. Lutz said that attitude needs to change.

"We've got to prevent people from getting on this stuff in the first place," he said.

Mike Brem, president of the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association, likened the battle against opioids to the fight against crack.

"We feel this penalty increase will deter drug traffickers as it did the same way with the crack epidemic in the 80's," he said.

The legislation, dubbed the "Drug Trafficking Deterrence Act," has 18 co-sponsors, according to Rep. Wiggam.

The bill also has the backing of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the OTFCA, Rep. Wiggam said.

'Significant Update' On Belmont County Ethane Cracker Slated For 2018

A Thai petrochemical company now says it will have news on whether it plans to move forward with a proposed world-class ethane cracker plant sometime after the new year.

PTT Global, Gov. John Kasich and JobsOhio leaders in 2015 announced at a Statehouse press conference that the company - Thailand's largest petrochemical and refining company - was eyeing Belmont County for the \$6 billion plant. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 22, 2015)

A final investment decision was initially expected in 2016 but was then pushed to 2017. Last February, the company announced it would postpone a final decision until late 2017 but with January drawing near the lack of recent news has kept locals hoping for an announcement in suspense. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 17, 2017)

On Thursday, the company foreshadowed a "significant update" sometime early next year.

"PTTGC America will have a significant update that will demonstrate momentum for this project early in 2018," the company said. "We thank all Ohio and Belmont County partners for their support, and we wish you a happy holiday season."

The last news of the project came in October, when JobsOhio and PTT representatives met in Washington D.C. to ink a memorandum of understanding. In the MOU, the parties agreed to establish a community infrastructure development plan after a final investment decision has been reached. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 6, 2017)

Asked about the project's status, JobsOhio spokesman Matt Englehart said talks are ongoing.

"While a final investment decision has not yet been made, PTTGCA continues to collaborate with JobsOhio and local partners while investing time and resources to move this project forward," he said.

JobsOhio and the Kasich administration have touted the potential project as a boon for region that will draw in jobs and economic revitalization.

The company had committed to a \$100 million investment as it considers the move and earlier this year purchased 168 acres from FirstEnergy for the site to the tune of \$13.8 million.